

Message Text

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47

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-02 ACDA-10 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12

NEA-09 RSC-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 DPW-01 IOE-00 /109 W

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O R 031803Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 390

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BERN

USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS GENEVA 0644

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ICRC,PARM, US, VN

SUBJ: PRG ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

1. SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON
INTL HUMANITARIAN LAW CONVENED IN GENEVA ON FEB 3
BY SWISS PRESIDENT AND CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN GRABER.

2. DURING INTIAL MEETING OF CONFERENCE,
MORNING OF FEB 3, GRABER PUT FORWARD AGENDA FORMULATED
BY BUREAU OF CONFERENCE. POINT 3 OF AGENDA WAS
ENTITLED "CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION CCDH/202
ENTITLED "QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF SOUTH
VIETNAM IN THE CONFERENCE"." (THIS DRAFT TRANS-
MITTED GENEVA 603). ALDRICH, CHAIRMAN OF USDEL, ON
POINT OF ORDER OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF POINT 3 ON
AGENDA AND REQUESTED RULING FROM CHAIRMAN WHETHER
TWO-THIRDS (RULE 32) OR SIMPLE MAJORITY (RULE 35)
VOTE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE ITEM 3 ON AGENDA. ALDRICH
ARGUED THAT TWO-THIRDS REQUIRED TO REOPEN DISCUSSION
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ON PRG ISSUE.

3. GRABER APPEARED NOT TO UNDERSTAND ISSUE. FIRST, HE SAID HE WOULD RULE IN FAVOR OF INCLUDING THE ITEM. ALDRICH NOTED THAT HE HAD REQUESTED RULING ON VOTING MAJORITY AND NOT ON INCLUSION OF ITEM. GRABER THEN ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANY OBJECTION TO ADOPTION OF AGENDA, AND ALDRICH OBJECTED. GRABER THEN SAID THERE WOULD BE VOTE ON ITEM 3 OF AGENDA AS PROCEDURAL MATTER UNDER RULE 35 PARA 2, AND ALDRICH OBJECTED.

4. GRABER CALLED TEN MINUTE BREAK. DURING BREAK GRABER, ALDRICH, EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS DISCUSSED SITUATION. IT AGREED TO ADOPT AGENDA WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO USDEL'S RIGHT TO MAKE MOTION ON TUES. MORNING FEB 4, AT COMMENCEMENT OF DISCUSSION OF ITEM 3, CONCERNED WHAT VOTING MAJORITY REQUIRED TO REOPEN CONSIDERATION OF ITEM. GRABER ANNOUNCED THIS RESULT AND PLENARY ADJOURNED.

5. WE THEREFORE EXPECT ISSUE OF TWO-THIRDS VERSU SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE TO BE PUT FEB 4. GRABER SAID THAT, IN ANY EVENT, HE WOULD ATTEMPT NOT TO PERMIT DISCUSSION IN PLENARY TO RUN BEYOND FEB 5.
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